

The

ACE

OH

NO!



IT'S

RADIO USA!

WELCOME TO THE COMBINED MAY - JULY ISSUE OF THE ACE!

After a two month delay, the ACE is back with extra pages and more information about pirates, clandestine and numbers stations than in any issue of the club's bulletin in recent memory. Thanks to all of you who have written in asking about the ACE and the reason for the delay...your patience and understanding have been appreciated.

Over the last six months, my work and other obligations have taken an increasingly greater share of my free time. This became a real problem for me in May and into the summer, and made it impossible for me to devote the time needed to put together the bulletins myself. As you know, the publishing, subscription and membership duties for the club have been handled by one person...requiring 20 to 25 hours of time each month. I just could not perform those duties and still meet my obligations to my clients and family.

The GOOD NEWS from all of this, however, is that the club's mainstays have rallied together to insure that the club will continue to provide you with the information and club services you expect from the ACE. Not only have your editors and correspondents continued to provide super reports (all included in this expanded issue so you will not miss anything), we are also pleased to announce the reappointment of Keith Thibodeaux as Publisher of the ACE. Keith volunteered to resume the position he performed so well for the two years prior to my tenure...I suggest that each of you immediately drop him a note of thanks and support.

Effective immediately, all material for the ACE, subscription and renewal correspondence should be mailed to Keith:

Keith Thibodeaux, ACE Publisher
9525 Woodbine Drive
Baton Rouge, LA 70815

Thanks for coming forward, Keith! I hope to be able to resume my column, Technicalities, in the fall for the ACE...I have partially completed articles covering the full story behind the Voice of the Purple Pumpkin and its bust in the early 70's, the KVHF bust in California, and the tale of the FCC's monitoring of the Jim Jones/Guyana massacre communications. As my schedule permits, I will finish these and send them on to Keith.

Finally, let me make a few comments about the club's financial situation. As anyone who has ever worked for a non-profit club knows, the treasury is always a concern. The ACE is no exception...inasmuch as the cost of each bulletin and postage exceeds the \$1.00 per issue dues. Eventually, the club will have to decide whether to decrease the size of the bulletin and/or increase annual dues to a level that is comparable to other international SWL clubs.

I know these problems first hand, having paid approximately \$50 from my own pocket each month to subsidize the club. Don't get me wrong, I enjoyed publishing your bulletin and it was certainly worth the cost...I made many friends among the membership and (usually) was proud of the quality of the bulletins. In fact, all of your editors spend freely of their own funds to subsidize the bulletin (not one editor requested reimbursement for any costs during the past year)...I often marvelled at the generosity of Kirk Baxter who not only incurred substantial costs for the ACE, but also paid all costs associated with maintaining the ACE Computer Bulletin Board System.

Currently your club's treasury is in relatively good position...as a result of combining the May through July issues into this expanded version. All those funds are being transferred to Keith. I have decided that, in fairness to the club, we should not adjust membership records to add an issue or two to everyone's subscription. The money just ain't there, folks! I am positive that everyone who cares about the long term future of the club will agree, but if there are any dissenters they should write me and I will send them one or two back issues (your choice back to 1982) of the ACE to make up for the skipped issues this summer. Please include return postage, however.

Finally, anyone who wants to help out the club's treasury should send additional contributions, renewals, etc. directly to Keith Thibodeaux. I will also sell back issues of the ACE (any month back to 1982) for \$1.00 or \$10 for 15 issues of your choice. All funds generated from the sale of back issues will go to Keith as additional contributions to the treasury.

Well, that does it for me as your Publisher. I've enjoyed it and hope that I'll continue to see and hear you all in these pages. Best 73.

Bill Martin



ASSOCIATION OF NORTH AMERICAN RADIO CLUBS

NEWS

P.O. Box 143
Falls Church, VA 22046-0143
USA

Contact: Robert Horvitz
1-703-534-7443

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

FCC Proposes to Require Privacy Act Labels on Scanners and General Coverage Shortwave Receivers

14 June 1988 (Washington, DC) — The Federal Communications Commission (FCC) has proposed new rules that would require "advisory labeling of scanning radio receivers and manually tuned radio receivers that are intended for use by the general public and are capable of receiving communications protected by the Electronic Communications Privacy Act of 1986 (ECPA)." The label would be to inform users that "interception of communications protected by the ECPA could be unlawful."

The proposed rules would apply to general coverage shortwave receivers and VHF-UHF scanners. They may also cover home satellite receiving equipment. Advisory labels would not be required on transceivers used in licensed services. That includes Amateur, Cellular and Private Land Mobile Radio. Nor would they be required on receivers designed to receive only bands allocated to broadcasting or aviation services.

In opening this rule making proceeding - Gen. Docket 88-281 - the FCC rejected as impractical the alternative proposed by the cellular radiotelephone industry: requiring that reception of certain bands be blocked by technical means before a receiver could be marketed to the general public. The Commission pointed out that ECPA-protected and unprotected communications can be transmitted in many of the same channels, even in the cellular bands.

Public comment is invited on the specific wording of the label, whether it should be on the device or the package containing it, and what other "accompanying instructive material" about the ECPA should be required, if any. The FCC's deadline for filing comments is 5 August 1988. Reply comments are due by 22 August 1988. If adopted, the new rules could take effect sometime this winter.

Copies of the FCC's 3-page notice are available for 25 cents and a SASE (self-addressed stamped envelope), from ANARC (address above).

Loggings

JUNE

Contributions to the loggings column are gratefully accepted by the deadline of the 15th of each month. Loggings are preferred on logging forms which are available for a SASE. Contributions should be sent to: P.O.B. 3436, Peoria, Illinois 61614. ***** For the month of July PLEASE send your contribution directly to Bill Martin, P.O.B. 1744, Wilmington, DE. as he will be editing the column during the month I am moving. Thereafter, send all contributions to the Peoria address. Thanks!!

NORTH AMERICA - MEDIUM WAVE

WCPR: 1620.4, 5/8, *0400-0510+, SIO=434. Pgm consisted of rock mx and then played "Ray Masters". DJ was "Mr. Magoo", who was taking calls. At 0445 he said that he had a special guest on the phone, which turned out to be Jack Beane of WENJ. Interesting discussion about pirate radio. Gave Hilo address. (FRAILEY,NJ) 1620, 5/8, 0400-0600, SIO=444. Brdcst religious pgm and interview with Jack Beane. (THOMAS,NJ) 1620.2, 5/21, 0200-0430*, SIO=534. Station played various Christian rock mx. DJ anncd, "This is WCPR - Christian Pirate Radio" Also played talk shows about meditation. Gave out an 800 number for callers to leave message. (FRAILEY,NJ)

WENJ: 1630.2, 5/8, *0038-0317*, SIO=555. Pgm consisted of oldies and trivia questions with the DJs Jack Beane and Bobby Ocean. Very professional sounding. Gave Hilo address. Said that their FM xmitter would be back on soon. Gave out a number to leave messages on. (FRAILEY,NJ) 1630.4, 5/8, 0155-0255, SIO=322. Mx by the Beach Boys, and other oldies. Acknowledged my report and tape. (FIELD,PA) 1630.5, 5/22, *0058-0330, SIO=555. Pgm of oldies with trivia questions. Customized synthesized jingles. Played back tape of calls to their answering machine. (FRAILEY,NJ) 1620.2, 5/29, *0230-0500*, SIO=555. Very interesting pgm of oldies with Trivia questions. Echo on audio during program. IDed as WENJ Radio, 1620 AM, 108.3 FM, Your NJ pirate, pirate, pirate. (FRAILEY,NJ)

NORTH AMERICA - SHORT WAVE

Radio Clandestine: 7415.6 -> 7417.1, 5/8, 0318-0407*, SIO=555. Rerun of an old pgm with rock mx, ad for squeeze jockstraps, and "American Top 40 Education" skit. Tnx to Bigley in TX for tip. (ZELLER,OH) 7415.5, 5/8, 0317-0406, SIO=544. RF Burns with mostly an all mx format. Less skits than normal. This signal was phenomenally strong in NY with S meter readings peaking 20-40 dB over S-9. When the station signed off, there was another brdcst of R Clandestine in progress on 7416.5, which was much weaker (SIO=222). How about that!! a station that QRMd another brdcst of its own programming. (GARRITY,NY) 7416, 5/8, 0315-0407*, SIO=544. Anncd as live program with host RF Burns. Excellent signal with professional program. "Psychiatrists R Us" skit. (PEARSON,NY) 7415, 5/8, 0250-0320, SIO=323. Oldies with host RF Burns. Bad QRM after 0320. (FRAILEY,NJ) 7416, 5/8, *0300-0421*. Station began by testing audio. When they tested, the station plowed over another pirate already on the frequency, possibly Tangerine Radio. Signal was booming in. RF Burns signed off at 0406, and immediately another Radio Clandestine followed, with a much poorer signal. Second pgm abruptly off at 0421. (SACHS,IL)

7416, 5/8, *0407-0422*, SIO=121. At s/off at 0407, Clandestine apparently continued with a poorer signal until 0422. Heavy QRN. (PEARSON,NY) 7416.6, 5/8, *0407-0422*, SIO=252. Clearly a different program from new xmitter. Came on right after QRT of the other RC show. Much weaker signal, and tough copy. Signal did not drift like earlier relay. (ZELLER,OH)

Radio Caroline: 6215, 4/30, 2330-0000. Since then their SW stn has been taken over by World Mission Radio. (THOMAS,NJ) 6215, 5/2, 0005-0100*, SIO=222. Pgm of rock mx. Heavy QRN and QSB. (FRAILEY,NJ)

5/29/88

Radio Garbanzo: 7414.8, *0335-0418*, SIO=544. My first logging of this stn [first I've heard of it, too - kgb]. "Fearless Fred" was the DJ, with a show of rock mx and wacky commercials (e.g. Sugar-Ludes breakfast cereal by Pillsburger). Interrupted by "A.S.S. on the Air"; the Association of Sucker Shoppers new home shopping program on the station. This went on for awhile until the statin was taken over by the "Radio Garbanzo Liberation Organization" and turned back over to Fearless Fred. Gave Hilo, HI mailing address. Very strong signal in NY. An enjoyable brdcst with great production values, funny comedy bits, and good audio. Welcome to the airwaves, Radio Garbanzo. (GARRITY,NY)

Secret Mountain Laboratory: 7418, 4/17, 0023-0037*, SIO=433. Tuned into SML with a confusing collage of 60's music, talk and whistling. QRM made talk unreadable. Followed by piano blues w/ female vocalist. Ad for Bob Berzerko's Drive-In Lounge. Pgm ended with acoustic guitar mx. Hilo address. (SMITH,NY) 7418.4, 4/17, 0438-0500, with a S9+10 signal. Playing pretty obscure mx. (BROWN,PA)

Voice of Tomorrow: 7409.9, 5/22, 2333-2352*, SIO=454. Pro-Fascist talk about poet Ezra Pound. Broadcast said, "US is insane, having jailed Pound while garbage like Martin Luther King is declared a hero." ID at 2345 by OM saying "This is the Voice of Tomorrow calling from Baltimore". OM sang "Deutschland, Deutschland, Uber Alles" in GG. Gave address of POB 314, Clackamas, Oregon 97015. As usual, YL sang "Tomorrow Belongs to Me" at the end, with the usual howling wolf at s/off. Solid signal, good modulation. (ZELLER,OH) 7410, 5/22, 2302-2352*, SIO=333-222. Stn aired speeches on the lives of Confederate General Jeb Stewart and Poet Ezra Pound -- these were previously aired on 6/7/87. However, the total program was not a repeat. The musical selections in this brdcst were different. Had a basso-profundo rendition of "Deutschland Uber Alles" complete with operatic choral accompaniment. Gave Oregon mailing address. Signal strenght was good, with some deep fades and QRN. Good tight well produced sound with excellent modulation. (GARRITY,NY) 7410, 5/29, 2323-0013*, SIO=444. Program was Heavier on the mx than is normal for a VoT brdcst. Had an interview with a member of a "white Hispanic national socialist" organization based in Spain. Gave the Clackamas, OR address. Strong signal with some RTTY QRM. (GARRITY,NY)

World Mission Radio: 6215, 5/1, 0150-0410+, SIO=322. Hauser and the ANARC 40 m ham net have said that WMR has a contract with R. Caroline, and has replaced it. Gospel and rock mx. Periodic IDs preceded by short jingle by OM singers. Gave address as "World

Mission Radio, Box 3416, Corona, Calif. 91719." QRMd by Quince/Liberacion on 6214.4 until 0200. Signal seemed better than Caroline, so may not be their xmitter after all. (ZELLER,OH)

UNID: 7425, 5/4, 0202-0206, SIO=434. End of a show with femal C&W mx. No ID heard, but good signal and audio. (SMITH,NY)

The following reports are by our roving reporter, Andrew O'Brien, who is currently in England. Thanks to George Zeller for forwarding them to us.

WPRO (or WFRL): 6300, 5/8, 0945. Top 40 pop mx with an SWL and free radio show called "DX Express" Ancd a new frequency of 7386. BLR (or VLR): 6305, 5/8, 0949. Weak signal with OM in English. Mentioned free radio magazine called "Offshore Echo". [George says this may have been KLA Radio]
Radio Telek: 6317.5, 5/8, 0946. Progressive rock. German with some English. Gave a W. German POB.
Radio Maribou: 6317, 5/8, 0953. Came on after R. Telek signed off. Also with a German POB #.
Radio Rainbow Int'l: 6230, 1000. Also anncd 1521 kcs, and 95.8 mhz. Irish accented OM anncr said they would relay pgms from WLR. "WLR" came on at 1120.
R. Orion?: 6290, 5/8, 1130. Heavy rock, with English accented OM DJ.
R. Westside Int'l: 6280, 5/8, 1135.

Bob Brwn also reports hearing Iran's Flag of Freedom Radio with fairly good signals on 15555, 15550 and 9045 kcs. They sign on at 0330 with an English ID, but after that, it's all Farsi for the next 2 hours. They are supposedly xmitting from Egypt.

MAY

NORTH AMERICA - MEDIUM WAVE

WCPR: 1620, 3/27, 0220-0400*, SIO=444. Pgm consisted of Christian rock mx and a show abt health. Audio was a little tinny but said their signal and audio would improve sometime in April. Said they would soon have a mail drop and QSL cards. Developed hum at 0350 & went off the air w/out sign-off. (THOMAS,NJ) 1620, 4/2, 2300-0015*, SIO=444. Bcst a tape from Tangerine Radio. Had show "Freedom in Medicine." Audio much better than 3/27 bcst. Gave Hilo addr for mail drop. (THOMAS,NJ) 1620.4, 4/2->4/3, 2348-0012*, SIO=122. Sounded like talk show. Gave Hilo addr several times. Stn ID at 0012: "This is WCPR 1620 AM." (RICHOLSON,VA)

WENJ: 1620, 3/27, 0510-0800*, SIO=455. Professional sounding anncr Jack Bean. Played oldies mx and gave an 800 phone number for call-ins. Promised QSL to callers. Various IDs. Good audio. (THOMAS,NJ) 1620, 4/2, 0545-0735*, SIO=444. Jack Bean played "moldy oldies." 800 number for callers. (THOMAS,NJ) 1630, 4/3, 0015-0145*, SIO=545. More oldies and offered QSLs for reports mailed to Hilo addr. (THOMAS,NJ) 1630.6, 4/3, 0015-0040, SIO=434. Anncd Hilo addr for QSLs. Mx pgm w/ anncr Jack Bean. I checked for them at 0052 and they were off the air. (RICHOLSON,VA)

UNID: 1635, 3/6, 2244-2245*, SIO=555. No audio. Carrier switched on and off several times, then disappeared. (THOMAS,NJ)

UNID: 1620, 4/1, 0232-0235*, SIO=122. Started w/ some mx then into an annmt which mentioned something abt Saturday night. WCPR? (RICHOLSON,VA)

UNID: 1620, 4/4, 0006-0015*, SIO=212. Caught some mx, a drum beat. Signal then lost. Rock mx on and off. Possible annmt at 0014. No carrier after 0015. (RICHOLSON,VA)

NORTH AMERICA - SHORT WAVE

Secret Mountain Laboratory: 7418.4, 4/17, 0002-0036*, SIO=222. Severe heterodyne interference in this area. Various mx and spoofs including "Deputy Dan" skit. Good to hear this pirate with their out-of-the-ordinary style of pgming. S/off included a couple of mentions of Hilo mail drop. (RICHOLSON,VA) 7418.3, 4/17, 0418-0459*, SIO=433-222. Gave Hilo addr. Actual pgm commenced at 0420 w/ bluegrass-type mx, counterculture 60's/70's era montages, ads for "The Neutron Bomb." and "Bob's Berserko

Lounge." Pgm ended w/ OM anncr (w/ Southern accent) repeating Hilo addr & requesting 3 first class stamps for reply. Audio quality fairly good. Signal was subject to some deep fades and 2 way SS SSB QRM on frequency. Terrible QRN this morning. My first copy of SML!! (GARRITY,NY) 7418-7419, 4/17, 0440-0500*, SIO=434. Signal punched through despite horrible QRN. Usual collage of silly songs. Usual Hilo addr. (SACHS,IL)

Voice of Free Long Island: 7415, 3/20/88, 0430-0520, SIO=545. Had new features like "DX Tips" by "DX Darren" and a mail bag pgm. It sounded like a big audience as there were lots of call-ins and lots of them put over the air. Calls aired were hardly audible. Interference on 7410 from a piercing CW numbers stn. (TROMP,MI)

WXOR/WSOR: 7418, 4/4, 0152-0250, SIO=344. Rock mx at tune-in. Hrd "Would I Lie to You?" Also mx by the "WXOR Band." S/off at 0250 w/ Capt. Bottlecrap and Pull-Tab Hunter giving an address of: WXOR, 1881 NE 26th Street, #204W, Ft. Lauderdale, FL 33305. (TROMP,MI) 7419, 4.8, 0240-0252. SIO=544. Pop mx. Tried to send report to above address, but it was returned by postmaster marked "Return to sender, addressee moved" only a week after bcst. Any other known address?? (SPIVACK,MA)

WYMN: 7418, 4/9, 0250-0330*, SIO=545. Played the usual all female artists. Commercial ad spoof for HIS College, where women can earn their Mrs. degree w/ field trips to MIT. Gave the Hilo addr. (SACHS,IL)

UNID: 7412, 4/9, 2256, SIO=555. Hrd Chariots of Fire, then off. Nice Signal. (TROMP,MI)

UNID: 7415, 4/2, 0310-0318, SIO=122. Possible pirate. Hrd man's voice and possibly a woman's voice as well. Brief mx. (RICHOLSON,VA)

ELSEWHERE IN THE WORLD

Radio Caroline: 6210, 3/17, 3/18, 3/19->3/20, 3/21, 3/24->3/25, 3/25->3/26 w/ overwhelming het squeal, 3/26->3/27, 3/27, 3/28, 3/29, 3/30->3/31, 3/31->4/1, 2244-0307, SIO=333 on avg. 4/9, 0001, SIO=222. (RICHOLSON,VA) 6210, 4/2, 0136-0146. EE pop mx w/ ads. (ROSS,ONT) 6210, 2/21-3/12, 2000-2200, SIO=544. Very good. Tnx, Mr. Sun. US address of 54 Plainfield Avenue, East Rockaway, NY 11518-1230. (SPIVACK,MA) (Ira Richolson reports that he had tried the addr in the 1988 WRTVH of Lynbrook, NY and his rpt was returned as unforwardable.)

Radio Dublin: 6914.7, 3/17, 3/19->3/20, 3/20->3/21, 3/21->3/22, 3/26, 4/1->4/2, SIO=222 avg. Pgming hrd 2135 and 0308. Usual pgm of mx. Presumed stn to be Dublin. (RICHOLSON,VA)

VERIED RESPONSE

JOHN T. ARTHUR, PROPRIETOR
BOX 716
PAHOA, HAWAII 96778

Please send your QSL reports, information and comments to the above address or leave them in the (P)ersonal Mail section of the ACE RBBS prior to the 20th of the month. VR is electronically transmitted to

A*C*E Hdq on or before the 24th.

Sorry about missing the April column. No, I did not fall into another puka. The expected contribution from Hutton Peck got lost in the mail somewhere between Nome and Hilo, and I had nothing on tap to cover for it. In fact, for the first time in several years, I had no input at all. Are things really that bad out there? Ya gotta keep faith and keep listening, or the Operators will stop broadcasting; it becomes a self-perpetuating cycle. If noone listens, noone broadcasts, so noone listens and our hobby dies. On the up-side, we have the results of the 1987 Pirate Popularity Poll right on schedule this month, and it's full of surprises. But we'll get to that in a bit. Forward...

*** What's News ***
the media report

Bob Grove does it again! Monitoring Times is now in a magazine format on not-quite glossy paper, so the ink won't come off on your fingers, which puts it one up on PopComm in my book. The content continues to improve, as does the readability under the guidance of Larry Miller. The March 88 issue was mailed to everybody on his mailing list mainly because it also contained the latest catalog from Grove Enterprises. The man is into marketing, for sure. MT continues to amaze me with their SWBC coverage and bore me with their utility and scanner stuff, but you can't please everyone all the time. Two major faux faux on the March cover: the Rev. Ken MacHarg's rhetorical question whether religion is taking over SW was never answered (nor even addressed), and the review of the Kenwood TS140S did not appear inside. Beyond that Monitoring Times is a worthwhile replacement for PopComm, if you're so inclined. Cover price is US\$2.50, subscriptions are US\$16 per year from: Grove Enterprises, PO Box 98, Brasstown, NC 28902. [Direct]

Oh, no! The Post Office laid yet another April Fools joke on us in the guise of a rate increase - now we get to pay 25-cents for the same old lakadazical 3-cent service. Once again, with the loudly publicized increase and a cut-back in services, came a silent increase in POBox rent fees. DVS reports that their rent on Box 5074 went up an outrageous \$10 per year and asks that if you use the Box and have not yet donated your \$1, please hurry and do so. May I also suggest that you write your Representatives (who, by the way, have unlimited FREE postal privileges) and register your disapproval.

Looking for new tubes? You might want to try United Page, Inc. They've announced a 'Sale-a-thon', slashing prices on more than three million name brand tubes. As an example, the ubiquitous 6146B is available for only US\$9.00 each, which is about half price. They also manufacture direct plug-in solid state replacements for common rectifiers. For complete information and a price list, contact: United Page, Inc., Box 765, Paterson, NJ 07503. [Direct]



write: Universal Radio, 1280 Aida Drive, Reynoldsburg, OH 43068. [Direct]

Radio USA stuns the Free Radio world with hand-drawn T-shirts! These are the shirts mentioned several months back - for only US\$5!! I am led to believe that these are one-of-a-kind (of course I haven't seen any others yet) and that they WILL withstand machine washing in cold water. They're a total steal for five bucks, so why haven't you ordered yours yet? To obtain this magnificent masterpiece, send your shirt size, \$5 and your return address to: Radio USA, Box 5074, Hilo, HI 96720. You still ain't done it? [more or less Direct]

The ultimate gift for the hunters that have it all: camouflage toilet paper, and at only \$3.98 per 115-foot roll! Available from: Harriet Carter, Dept 18, Wales, PA 19455. It says here that "...hunters using white toilet paper have been mistaken for white-tailed deer and shot at!" And we wouldn't want that to happen, would we? A great gag gift for the budding Rambo in your neighborhood, too. [Direct]

A correction to a previous column: subscription rate for the Ham Trader Yellow Sheets is US\$12 per year, NOT \$10. My appologies for typing faster than I can read... [Staff Contributor Bud Wooten]

For those eagerly awaiting the second edition of the Free Radio Handbook, please be patient. Production is on hold due to printer problems; everything is in memory but cannot be printed at this time. All orders will be filled as soon as things are back to normal. The revised first edition is still available for a limited time for US\$2 (cash) from: DVS, Box 5074, Hilo, HI 96720.

---> SAY YOU READ IT IN THE A*C*E <---

dis's und dots...
(formerly Ye Olde Rumor Mill)

several new stations, some of them widely heard, have signed with Box 5074...add WCPR, WENJ and Radio Emerald Forest...

Tangerine Radio has released a short Spring 1988 program...subject is loss of freedom, featuring relevant music...available to Operators for a high-quality (prefer Cr02) C60 cassette and return postage...everyone else can get it for \$2 (cash) and the tape...from: DVS, Box 5074, Hilo, HI 96720...

Radio Garbanzo shocked the known world with their irreverent 1987 Christmas program, and promises to continue upholding the standard in 1988...you can listen for Harry P. Ness and the crew in the 41 and 90 meter pirate bands or get a studio copy for the terms in the last paragraph, except this one requires a C90...remember Radio Garbanzo. They're not nuts; they're beans...

The FM operation in Los Angeles on 91.1 we suggested you check out has unfortunately been busted...Radio Mount Lebanon broadcast for about four hours on Sunday evenings...what made this station unusual is that they broadcast exclusively in Lebanese...word is that they were running a kilowatt from a hillside location and using a remote UHF control link...

a new FM station in SoCal, frequency uncertain, but also using CB Freeband at 27.515, is KREC...they say their address is: PO Box 3751,

Chatsworth, CA 91313...

Word from Radio Newyork International is that some major personnel changes have taken place since the interview that appeared in A*C*E a few months back...regardless of the crew, they promise that WILL return to the air...they also appologise for the problems with their previous maildrop, apparently many reports were never forwarded to the station...if you reported reception of last July's broadcasts and never heard from the station, please send a follow-up and a SASE to: RNI, POBox 010073, Staten Island, New York 10301-0003...it wouldn't hurt to mention The A*C*E and columnist Jim Garrity when you write...

an anonymous Operator has requested that DVS act as a clearing house for future pirate Tee-shirt information...if you're into collecting Pirate Tee's, please send your shirt size and favorite color to: DVS, Box 5074, Hilo, HI 96720. The data will be compiled and made available to Operators on request, making it possible for you to unexpectedly receive a special prize for a reception report...

----> Caroline Notes <----

The new shortwave service of Radio Caroline has been widely heard and reported, even here in North America. According to Radio Nederland's Media Network, on March 10th, Caroline conducted an unusual experiment one Sunday afternoon; they shut down the SW transmitter for one-half hour to listen for comments from their listeners! And they got plenty of comments from as far afield as Poland, even one guy that wanted a two-way QSO. As Jim Garrity says, it's too bad more stations don't conduct the same experiment; the comments are often more interesting than the program! He also reports that they announce a mailing address of: Radio Caroline, New York 11518, USA, which we can tell is incomplete (11518 is Zipcode for East Rockaway, NY, a town of 10,000, to the SE of Queens, out on the Island), and offer to QSL for a SASE and an IRC. It's not known (at this point) whether the IRC is required for NAM listeners.
[thx to Jim Garrity for the translation]

--> 1987 Pirate Popularity Poll <--
...and the winner is...

All things considered, the turn-out at the ballot box was light this year. That's partially understandable given the lack of activity in comparison with previous years and the extreme lateness of the March A*C*E, but there must be more to it than that. Has everyone given up the hobby; was pirate DXing (and ACE) a one-shot success? The few votes cast continue to support my theory that the audience is more sophisticated than most broadcasters believe; the creativity portion drew more positive votes than expected. And there is hope for the future, as some relative new-comers rated strong in both areas.

May I have the envelope, please...the First Place all around winner in the 1987 Pirate Poll is: Radio North Coast International...! Congrats to our New World Champion. The station owners may collect their prize upon presentation of proper ID at 1819 N Street NW, Washington, DC, during normal business hours. Runners up in the Creativity division are: KNBS, Radio Angeline, Radio Clandestine, Radio Garbanzo, Radio Newyork International and WHOT. Worst stations in the division are "...the unidentified 41 meter music dork...", Voice of Tomorrow and WKUE.

Runners up in the Technical division are: KNBS, Radio Clandestine, Radio Garbanzo and WBRI. Worst in that division are: Radio Newyork International and WINN.

Some comments received with the votes are enlightening: "RNCI has a clean sound." also "Great shows, great sigs." "Radio Angeline's programming, with haunting music and emotion evocative readings, was a cut above the usual pirate fare (although) the broadcast I heard was four years old..." "Radio Newyork International (was the) biggest Free Radio event I've experienced..." "KNBS has a political message imbedded in its programming ...(they) appeal to the ...libertarian in me. KNBS has a good balance of music and message - I hope it's around a long time."

I hate to rub it in, but notice that reigning favorite Voice of Laryngitis didn't even show up this year. Of course, they're in good company: Tangerine Radio didn't show up either, and both stations operated last year.

You could help make this Poll more accurate gauge of public opinion. Keep notes on the Free Radio stations you hear during 1988 and vote for your favorites between January 1 and March 31, 1989. Watch VR for reminders and further details.

*** Mouthterpiece Theater ***
(formerly: Soapbox)
-- ACE members speak out --

This month we have another letter from Mr Blue Sky of Radio USA (ohnonothimagain!):

"It's been nearly five years since Radio USA was heard across the country on 41 metres. In the time we were on the air, we were heard in 23 states and provinces of the US and Canada. Our listeners put up with a lot of bad programming and bad audio, but the response encouraged us and we kept trying. It has been a great growing and learning experience for us and I'd like to thank everyone that has been there for us: listeners, those who wrote to us, those who reported our signals in The A*C*E, other station Operators, the three publishers of The A*C*E, those who bought our Tee-shirts, jta (blush) for handling our mail and putting up with us, and anyone else we may have missed. Thanks a lot. And keep listening for Radio USA, we will be back!"

Gosh, what a nice letter, and I think you mentioned everybody, too. Hope to hear you on the 41mb again soon. jta

what do YOU think? VR is a forum for Your opinion and comment. Please organize Your thoughts, be concise and expect comment directed at Yours. I may edit to fit space available but will try not to alter Your meaning.

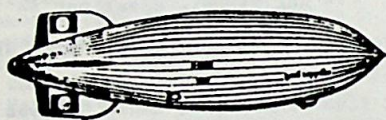
 ++ under the door ++

the QSL report for: May 1988

North Carolina's Jeff Ferdon adds a full data 'slack' form letter from the one and only Voice of Bob in about 575 days for an UNID rpt in A=C=E Dialogs.
 [welcome back - and please pester me as often as possible! jta]

Best of DX and 73 from Rocky Alil (Jabba the Cat) and me...

Zeppelin Radio Worldwide



Count Wolfgang von Manteuffel

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
 FIELD OPERATIONS BUREAU



JOSEPH P. CASEY
 CHIEF
 INSPECTIONS AND INVESTIGATIONS
 BRANCH

PHONE (202) 632-6345

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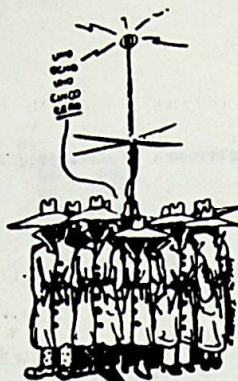
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by Last Post,
 3413 Old Lakeside Road
 Sioux City, IA 51106
 U.S.A.

0000-0059
 4670 Px.:47,M22tu,4.VLB2,77605.JB 7605 Px.:45,M26sa,4.VLB2,774670.JI
 5015 GS.:05,A1f,2.JB
 5438 P5.:04,A5tu,2.JB
 7605 Px.:47,M22tu,4.VLB2,774670.JB 0500-0559
 3225 CZ5.:00,M26sa,3.JB
 3258 GS.:01,A3su,2.JB
 4030 CZ5.:0,M26sa,A3su,3.JB
 6270 P5.:01,M26sa,4.ULX call.JB
 6825 SS.:10,M26sa,4.JB
 0100-0159
 4670 Px.:45,M20su,3.VLB2,77605.JB
 6802 S4.:00,M22tu,26sa,2-4,779074, 11532.JB
 7410 E5.:43,M20su,2.JB
 7445 Px.:15,M26su,3,KPA2.JB
 7605 Px.:45,M20su,3.VLB2,774670.JB
 9074 S4.:00,M22tu,26sa,4,776802, 11532.JB
 9966 S5.:06,M22tu,26sa,A1f,2.om.JB
 11532 S4.:00,M22tu,26sa,3,776802, 9074.JB
 0200-0259
 4670 Px.:44,M20su,26sa,3.VLB2, 77605.JB
 6840 S4.:13,M26sa,4.JB
 6840 S4.:31,M25f,4.JB
 7445 Px.:15,M20su,3,KPA2.JB
 7540 E5.:22,M20su,3.JB
 7605 Px.:44,M20su,26sa,4.VLB2, 774670.JB
 9050 E5.:27,M20tu,2.JB
 0300-0359
 3060 S5.:02,M26sa,4.JB
 4030 S5.:04,M26sa,3.JB
 4670 Px.:46,M26sa,3.VLB2,77605.JB
 6572 S5.:08,M26sa,3.om.JB
 7605 Px.:46,M26sa,4.VLB2,774670.JB
 9074 S*545*test.:03,A3su,3.JB
 9324u GS.:03,M20su,4.mx bx.JB
 0400-0459
 3090 S5.:03,M26sa,3.JB
 3225 CZ5.:00,M20su,A3su,3.JB
 3258 GS.:04,M20m,2.JB
 4030 CZ5.:05,M20su,A3su,3.JB
 4670 Px.:45,M26sa,2.VLB2,77605.JB
 5473 P5.:01,A3su,3.ORT call.JB
 5812 S4.:00,M20su,4,776802.JB
 5820 P5.:03,A3su,2,776802.JB
 6235 GS.:08,M26sa,2.JB
 6802 S4.:00,M20su,4,775812.JB
 6802 S*545*test.:04,A3su,4.JB
 7410 2B5.:03,M20su,26sa,3.JB
 7410 CZ5.:06,A3su,3.JB [are you sure
 7605 Px.:45,M26sa,4.VLB2,774670.JI
 0500-0559
 3225 CZ5.:00,M26sa,3.JB
 3258 GS.:01,A3su,2.JB
 4030 CZ5.:0,M26sa,A3su,3.JB
 6270 P5.:01,M26sa,4.ULX call.JB
 6825 SS.:10,M26sa,4.JB
 0600-0659
 3258 GS.:06,M20su,2.JB
 3637 S5.:33,A3su,4.JB
 4035 S5.:07,M20su,A3su,4.JB
 5015 GS.:00,M20A3su,3-2,777405.PN
 7405 GS.:00,A3su,2.PN,775015.JB
 0700-0759
 z-z-z-z-z-z-z-z
 0800-0859
 6627 S5.:01,A3su,3.JB
 0900-1859
 z-z-z-z-z-z-z-z
 1900-1959
 9320 S5.:00,M19A2sa,3-4.JB
 2000-2059
 7740 E5.:00,M26sa,2.JB
 9074 S4.:00,M26sa,4.JB
 9130 Px.:02,A2sa,3,EZ12.JB
 10665 S4.:00,M18f,4,7711532.JB
 11532 S4.:00,M18f,4,7710665.JB
 12235+ S5.:00,M19,A2sa,3-2.JB
 2100-2159
 7445 Px.:10,M19sa,2,KPA2.JB
 7740 E5.:04,M19A2sa,2.JB
 9074 S4.:00,M17th,A2sa,4.JB
 2200-2259
 6840 P5.:04,M19su,2.JB
 7740 E5.:00,M17th19sa,A2sa,3-4, 779844.JB
 9844 E5.:03,A2sa,3su,3,777740.JB
 10665 S4.:00,A2sa3su,3-4.JB
 2300-2359
 3150 P5.:00,M19sa,1.JB
 4560 P5.:03,M19sa,2.JB
 5091 P5.:00,M19sa,3.JB

5437 PS: 04.M19sa.3.JB
5648 ES: 77.M19sa.4.JB
10663 S*045".M19sa.4.JB (not 545?)

Thanks to our only reporter this time:
JB-John Bellovich, Macclenny, FL



Time in GMT, freq. in kHz, language, # of digits or letters per group... x=no groups, minutes into the hour (e.g., 10:10), month & GMT date, day of week, signal strength 5 to 1 (from S or SIO), call & parallel freq. often noted; initials of person who logged broadcast.

Abbrev.: S=Spanish, F=French, G=German, E=English, R=Russian, CZ=Czech, B=Bulgarian, CH=Chinese, C=code, P=phonetics (alpha, bravo, etc.), PL=Polish; SS, FF, GG, EE, RR, CH, & PH are also used for the above. ?=unknown, YL=female, OM=male, m.tu.w.th.f.s.a.su = days of week, J.F.M.A.M.J.Jn.Jy.A.S.O.N.D = months (column us. includes 2-3 mos., so A can = Aug. & Apr.), many typical DX club abbrevs. utes=utilities, unid=unidentified, mx=music, P=Program, w=weather, tx=transmitting, rx=receiver, vx=voice, etc.; Plus many of my own... bkgrd=background, hrd=heard, rep.=repeat, rept.=report, aten="atencion", etc.

Thanks for the logs, John. We didn't hear from David in England this month. There has been some illness in his family, so we hope all is okay by now, DM.

I've not heard anything on the future of this column. I stated in the April issue (which has not arrived at my OTH as of 4/20) that the May issue could be my last column, but at this time most of you haven't read that yet and haven't had a chance to share your ideas. Around the May 15 deadline time, I'll be busy with the Genealogy Quarterly I edit, so there will be no column for June. In the meantime, maybe something will come up to keep SPS Centre going. We'll keep you informed.

No further SPS rx has been received, so I'll donate the rest of the space to our illustrious editor to use for other goodies. Meanwhile, 73 and Sud Wksng, Lani.

Lani



US, Cuba Discussing Interference

by David Hughes

Washington DC... While the lines of communication between the US and Cuba are opening up, sources say there is a long way to go to resolve all of the AM band interference disputes between the two nations.

In November, the US and Cuba held talks in Mexico City to "delink" the communications issues from other issues, the most pressing involving immigration, according to Wilson LaFollette, assistant chief of the FCC's Policy and Rules Division.

The resulting immigration agreement, in which Cuba will be allowed to send more of its people to the US and the US will send some of the immigrants from the 1980 "boat lift" back to Cuba, had sparked riots from some of those immigrants who had been incarcerated in Georgia and Louisiana.

The delinking procedure, LaFollette said, allowed Cuba to go ahead with a new immigration agreement with the US despite the continued radio interference issues.

No dates set

"Future meetings are scheduled in order to discuss the Cuban/US radio issues," LaFollette said. However, no dates had been set at press time in mid-

December.

"All kinds of discussions are going on," said NAB Deputy General Counsel Barry Umansky.

Fears that a TV version of the Voice of America's Cuban oriented Radio Marti, dubbed "TV Marti," is brewing in Congress could result in retaliatory AM interference, Umansky said.

"We just want to sit down with the Cuban government and resolve the interference."

"Nothing is going on per se," regard-

ing specific talks between the two nations, apart from the delinking procedure, according to Bill Haratunian, a consultant the NAB has hired to study the Cuban interference situation.

Cuba wants US channel

While the US wants a reduction in AM band interference that has severely plagued south Florida stations for almost three decades, as well as some clear channel stations across the country at night, Haratunian said that Cuba wants the US government to allow it to use a clear channel AM frequency to respond to Radio Marti.

"While these are the basis for future discussions, no date has been set for future meetings," he said.

Haratunian stressed that the NAB wants to make sure that US broadcasters have a voice in any negotiations that take place with Cuban authorities.

He added that the TV Marti issue is just an "idea that is being floated" in Congress and any discussion about it is still very preliminary.

For more information on the Cuban interference problem, contact Wilson LaFollette at the FCC: 202-632-5414.

RADIO STELLA TO TEST TO NORTH AMERICA

By Andrew O'Brien

Mindermere, UK. June 3rd 1988.

One of the better known British "hobby" pirates - Radio Stella International - is soon to begin test transmissions to North America. ACE members have been asked to assist the station operators by providing reception reports. Jock Wilson of RSI kindly consented to an ACE interview via telephone while this writer was touring Britain. Jock stated that RSI evolved from free radio broadcasts that he began "from a field in Scotland" back in 1978, the name Thistle Radio was in use at that time. Jock described how the station was raided in 1980 and equipment confiscated by British authorities. Eventually the 20 watt xtr was returned after paying a 100 pound fine. Eventually Thistle radio re-emerged as RSI, broadcasting infrequently until the summer of '87 when the purchase of new equipment "encouraged RSI to extend and increase its programming".

I monitored RSI on 5/22/88 at 11:50 BST (10:50 UTC) on 7434 kHz with a SIO of 444 here in the mountains of Cumbria. Jock informed me that the broadcast was using an 80 watt xtr based in Eire, he also mentioned that 150 and 200 watt xtrs are used at other times in the month. Broadcasts are usually confined to Sunday morning/afternoons. During the interview Jock stated that RSI is to test to North America "in about 3 weeks" which should be around mid-July, he promised to advise ACE members of the exact date, time, and frequency when it is determined (check the ACE SDS, DX Hamline, or Sig. Net for up-to-the minute details). It is anticipated that the frequency range 7425 to 7490 kHz will be utilized between 0300 and 0600 UTC. Jock advises that transmissions will be from the UK, not Ireland. This adds some danger since anti-free radio laws are more enforced in the UK than Ireland. RSI has been received in the USA in the past according to Jock, so given favorable conditions reception of this Euro-pirate may well be a summer treat. I will miss the opportunity to DX it from the USA but I did promise to monitor reception in Moscow which is where I am heading next.

CLANDESTINE PROFILE

by

George Zeller

3492 West 123rd Street
Cleveland, Ohio 44111

Home Phone (216) 941-3366
Work Phone (216) 696-9077

ANDREW O'BRIEN

This month we have the best response from A*C*E members in the history of the Clandestine Profile column, so let's get right into the information. I received a letter direct from Andrew O'Brien, A*C*E's other clandestine editor, who tells us that he is off on an extended world tour at the moment. He has taken his rig with him, and he promises to send in reports from time to time. This means that he of course cannot write anything on a regular basis for A*C*E in the near future. Andrew has asked me to tell everyone that they should send their clandestine logs direct to me in Cleveland, at least until Andrew heads back to the USA in several months. Therefore, until further notice, the Clandestine Profile column will cover clandestine loggings, clandestine news, and all other background material, rumors, and speculation in the world of clandestine station DX-ing. Mailed loggings and phone tips are welcome. You can send them direct to George Zeller in Cleveland at the address listed above.

CONTRA CLANDESTINE RADIO

There has been some speculation in the DX community that the cease-fire negotiations between Ortega and the Contras may eventually lead to the QRT of the Contras' clandestine, which currently ID's as "Radio Liberacion y Radio Quince de Septiembre." So far this has not been the case. As of late April, they still are heard every evening on 5924.4 // 6214.4 KHz. The 5924.4 channel usually is swamped by SWBC QRM, but the 6214.4 signal comes in like gangbusters here in Cleveland. This is bad news for Radio Caroline europirate fans. Radio Moscow opened up a transmission on 6210 KHz early in April, and it has been reported that Radio Caroline moved to 6215 KHz. Another rumor in WDXC "Contact" says that Caroline might use 5865 KHz in the future. (Thanks to Finn Krone of Denmark and Don Jensen of Wisconsin, both in Numero Uno, for this data). In any event, I can't hear any sign of Radio Caroline here any more because of Liberacion/Quince on 6214.4.

Ulis Fleming in Maryland points out that this station now carries slick Radio Liberacion programs (produced in all probability by the US government-ed.) rather than the old machine guns and shouting that Quince made famous in past years. Ulis also points out that this is a good time to log them, just in case the political developments in Nicaragua might lead to their permanent QRT.

The March 31 Cleveland Plain Dealer carried an AP dispatch that pointed out the fact that Liberacion/Quince announced that contra forces attacked Sandanista troops, violating a negotiated truce just days before a 60-day cease fire was scheduled to go into effect in Nicaragua. The AP story monitored the reports from "a broadcast yesterday (January 30) by the contra's clandestine Radio September 15." The AP also referred to this transmitter as "the Honduras-based radio station."

The information in recent A*C*E bulletins on Jerry Falwell's satellite relay of Liberacion/Quince has attracted some interest in DX circles. I had three inquiries this month from people who are looking further into the matter. While the search for data is still in progress, early indications are that although Falwell is definitely uplinking the Contra station feed via satellite from Lynchburg, Virginia, his organization is not anxious to confirm this fact. Stay tuned... watch this space!

RADIO IRAN

Bob Ross of Ontario sent in plenty of good material this month. On the QSL front, he received the usual partial data letter from Radio Iran in two months with an illegible verification signer. This good QSL service came via the usual address for this station: 17 Raspail Blvd. 75007, Paris, France. Bob's report was for one of their transmissions on 9400 KHz. I got a similar QSL a couple of years ago from them.

This station was involved in one of the most interesting unsolved mysteries in recent clandestine DX history. Back in the July 1985 issue of A*C*E, Radio Iran was the subject of the very first Clandestine Profile column. Between late March and mid-June of 1985, an exceptionally strong relay of Radio Iran and the Voice of the United Muslim Fighters of Afghanistan was heard nightly on 7425 KHz, smack in the middle of a very active 40 meter pirate band at that time. Signals in North America regularly ran well in excess of S9. Much speculation ensued that given the whopping carrier strength and the time of day, this relay was probably coming from North America, perhaps somewhere in the USA such as the VOA facilities at Greenville or Bethany.

I received two interesting pieces of data on the powerful relay signal at that time. Bob Horvitz, who is now the Executive Secretary of ANARC, pointed out to me that the signal could be coming from the middle east, despite its S9+ signal strength and lack of fading. For instance, Greece beams a S9+ signal nightly to North America on 7430. However, both Bob and I remained puzzled as to why both anti-Afghan and anti-Iran clandestine programs would be beamed in middle eastern languages to North America, especially since the number of Farsi speakers in the United States is minuscule, and since the target areas for the programs were obviously in Iran, Afghanistan, and Pakistan.

I also was very surprised in 1985 to get a phone call direct from a VOA Greenville engineer while he was at work one evening. He read the A*C*E speculation that had been reprinted by Glenn Hauser in Review of International Broadcasting. (While the engineer was talking to me, the top of the hour arrived, and he had to push some buttons to change antennas/programs). The engineer said that to his knowledge, VOA Greenville was not relaying Radio Iran, and that if they were, he would have to be the guy who pushed the buttons to send out the signal. He was only 99% sure about VOA Bethany and VOA Marathon, but to his knowledge, they weren't relaying Radio Iran either. I very much appreciated the engineer's call and denials, although this did not clear up the mystery as to why the S9+ signals still blasted forth on 7425. In any event, in mid-June of 1985 the relay left the air, never to return. We never did find out exactly what was going on here.

As Bob Ross found, despite the demise of the local strength relay, the station is still audible here, and they do QSL. In the February 1988 Clandestine Confidential, Gerry Dexter (VIA Edward Kusalik in Canada) listed their schedule as 0230, 0400, 1330, and 1830 on 7075 and 7170 (1,000 KW sic), 9400 (250 KW), 9585 and 9594 (500 KW), and 11750//15650 (250 KW). Some of these powers are probably realistic, and Gerry therefore speculated that the Radio Baghdad transmitters may be in use for these broadcasts. Programs run for one hour.

RADIO HALBAN

Bob Ross also got a QSL from Radio Halban on 9590 KHz for a January 2, 1988 log from 1738-1753. Bob's program details included local string flute music and an OM talk in tentative Somali. The station was heard until Radio RSA's interval signal clobbered the frequency at 1753. The postcard QSL arrived after a report to Abdurashid A. Sed, Box 1686, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. Mr. Sed said (sorry for the bad pun) that Radio Halban is the voice of the Somali opposition (SSDF and SNM). They "are struggling to restore peace, freedom, and democracy in Somalia," and are scheduled 1700-1753 VIA a mobile transmitter. (They must be aware that they cannot fight RSA on 9590 after 1753). Bob notes that despite this data on his QSL card, there has been educated speculation among DX-ers that the station actually uses the Voice of Ethiopia government transmitters, some of which, if I am not mistaken, used to belong to the Lutheran ETLF, Radio Voice of the Gospel. Most clandestine stations make false claims about their transmitter QTH, so this situation would not be at all unusual.

Bob Ross also ID'ed three UNID Canadian TV stations I have been picking up with my new television antenna in Cleveland. Bob is a veteran DX-er, and we very much appreciate his input to A*C*E.

RADIO VENCEREMOS

This long-running station continues to be well heard in the USA. Bob Ross heard them on 6637 KHz January 17 at 0046-0054* with their usual OM/YL political talk and martial marching music. I've been hearing them virtually daily jumping around the 6550-6690 area to avoid their music jammer, as well as on // 3470v. This anti-Duric (El Salvador) station and its musical jammers still play a fascinating cat-and-mouse game on both 90 and 44 meters, with mid-program frequency jumps on most occasions.

LA VOZ DEL CID

An anonymous reporter points out that CID's famous (and funny) baseball sketch is now a regular program on the station. "Los Yankis" (the Yankees) play "Los Rojos" (the Reds) in a fake baseball game with canned crowd sound effects. Not surprisingly for CID, "Los Rojos" have a worse record than the Baltimore (that's why they call them the O's) Orioles, if you can believe that. The announcer uses a Guajido (hillbilly) accent to describe the game. Some of you may read the "Transitions" column on the sports page of your daily newspaper. Well, on CID a big trade has been made. Panamanian leader Noriega, who used to play for the "Yankees," has been traded to the "Reds," where he now plays left field. Somebody at CID has a sense of humor.

The same anonymous reporter accurately points out that music by the Miami Sound Machine is by far the #1 group on CID's hit parade. This is very interesting, because Gloria Estefan, the band's lead singer, is the daughter of former Cuban President Batista's former bodyguard. (Castro overthrew Batista almost 30 years ago, for those of you who missed this bit of Cuban history). You may have noticed that at the Pan American Games in Indianapolis last summer, the Cuban national team threatened to boycott the closing ceremonies because the Miami Sound Machine was playing at them. Clearly no love is lost between Cuba and this pop band, and this undoubtedly accounts for CID's practice of featuring them prominently on their playlist.

CLANDESTINE IN COLOMBIA

Several DX publications have noted that the anti-government "Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia Radio" went on the air in March. The station broadcasts for 15 minutes **Sundays only** with a claimed schedule of 1330 on 6835, 1600 on 10257, 1630 on 7215t, 2130 on 7422, and 2330 on 14285. The latter broadcast has been monitored in North America.

Among the sources for this data is Gerry Dexter's latest *Clandestine Confidential* newsletter. Gerry will send six issues of the newsletter (every other month) to you for \$10 (\$13 in US funds outside the USA) VIA CCN, RR4, Box 110, Lake Geneva, Wisconsin 53147. Gerry also needs our clandestine information input. He is a famous veteran DX'er and former ANARC DX'er of the Year. Why not help him out in this very worthwhile project?

LA VOZ POPULAR

Bob Ross in Ontario (VIA Don Jensen in Wisconsin) also reports that he is still hearing this anti-Guatemalan clandestine. On April 3 from 0023-0036 it was on 6970.5 KHz, although it suffered from lots of jammers. This relatively new clandestine still apparently broadcasts **only on UTC Saturdays**.

HAM DX NET

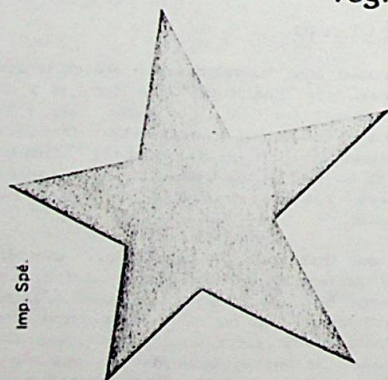
Bob Brown, KW3F, wrote direct to thank A*C*E members for their input to the weekly amateur radio SWL net, held on Sunday mornings at 1500 on 7240v KHz (perhaps 1400 with DST in effect). Some A*C*E members have phoned in tips, some wrote in with them, and at least two A*C*E members who are also hams have been heard by your editor on the net at times! The net covers all SWBC and Utilities logs and info, including pirate and clandestine loggings. You can send information to Bob at 238 Cricklewood Circle, Lansdale, Pennsylvania 19446, or you can call him at (215) 822-1046 (during reasonable hours). This is a very useful service for eastern/southern/midwestern DX-ers who can pick up the 40 meter signals in the morning, and they have mentioned A*C*E on numerous occasions. This relatively new project deserves our support, and Bob QSL's SWL reports 100%.

THANKS

Kudos to a fine record turnout this month from Bob Ross (Ontario), Ullis Fleming, (Maryland) Gerry Dexter (Wisconsin), Bob Brown (Pennsylvania), Andrew O'Brien (Eastern Hemisphere), and four (count 'em) anonymous reporters. All of us in A*C*E are thankful for this great support. Let's hear from YOU next month!

RADIO ESPERANTO

regroupée avec Radio libertaire - Paris
Radio liberté
Radio libertaria



89, 5 MHz

les mercredis de 14 h à 15 h
les vendredis de 19 h à 20 h

ESPERANTO, INTERNACIA LINGUO

145. rue Amelot. Paris 11^e - telefono-numero (studio) : 262-90-51

RADIO RAMBLINGS BY Andrew O'Brien

Wideneders, UK. June '88

While summer's outdoor pursuits reduce DXing activity I thought I might periodically fill a little ACE space with radio related items from my rambles around the world. The next year will see me get to Europe, USSR, Africa, China, India, Nepal, Aussie and NZ, plus Tahiti.

The past 2 months have been spent in Portugal and back in my family home in NW England. Radio listening in foreign countries is always interesting but any serious DXing was hampered by the fact that my R2000 took a month to arrive as opposed to the week that the US Mail promised.

On my last visit to the UK (3 years ago) I wrote an article for ACE summarizing the activities and programming of the "full time" FM and MW pirates in the UK and Eire. I was not very complimentary at that time, and I find that the situation has not improved. The "Pirates" still play an important role in British broadcasting, a role understood when one considers their history.

Growing up in Britain during the early 60's meant (for me) the choice of only 3 radio stations, if "pop" music was your main interest you had 2 hours per week on the BBC on Sunday afternoons. You could also try listening to the fading signals from Radio Luxembourg's English service on MW during the evenings only. When Radios Caroline, Veronica, and London (among others) appeared off British shores it was a total revolution! 24 hour music delivered in a previously unknown fashion, the DJ's even knocked the establishment at times!!!

Although revolutionary to Britons, it was basically an import of North American top 40 radio. It's success forced the British Govt (who strongly control the aether) to introduce similar stations, first via the BBC its self, then via the introduction of previously known concept - local radio (both BBC and private commercial stations controlled by the IBA).

Today in Britain there are numerous stations, all still doing variations of 60's style radio with a few call-in features added. Although North American radio is very bland and tightly formatted there are at least some noticeable differences between those formats. Daytime radio in Britain (with the exception of BBC radios 3 and 4) is just ONE format. A sweep across the dial in a large city might bring you 10 stations, all playing top 40 mixed with jokes and phone calls. No blues oriented rock stations, no Jazz, no progressive, and just one classical station for the entire country. It is only during the evening that some innovation occurs, BBC Radio One carries programming from 7PM to midnight that is an indicator of how creative radio can be. There are not many stations in the world where you can hear The Smiths, 1940's blues, Zimbabwean hi-life, Bluegrass, and Napalm Death (thrash) in the same half hour!

The full time pirates that operate mainly on FM offer ethnic oriented music, usually funk, reggae, and some jazz, but the programming is often as bland as the legit stations. Radio Caroline on 558 is totally dull! It appears that the shortwave hobby pirates are the only ones offering some alternatives. Although many are often imitations of the old formats but at least some alternative music is often heard.

Those reading SML magazines in North America will often see praise of the BBC for its news and objectivity. While this is generally true, it might surprise some to find out just how tightly the British Govt controls the electronic media. Presently there is press speculation about a fifth TV channel starting and articles appear informing readers that the Govt is "still determining what its content will be". Any new network has to submit its programming contents and philosophy for Govt approval. Although the Thatcher Govt advocates non-intervention in market forces, TV and Radio stations are only allowed to develop when and how the Govt sees fit. During the brief time I have been here the Govt has on two occasions asked for politically sensitive programs not to be aired (one on BBC one on IBA). To their credit the networks DID show the programs. Democracy working? Perhaps, but the following week saw Govt officials considering broadcasting policies that would break up one of the bodies that had defied them (the IBA) and also set up a Govt body that has the power to censor any reported show and will screen all reported shows before the BBC or IBA broadcasts them. Although aimed at stopping violence and sex on TV, this is viewed as the thin end of a dangerous wedge.

British officials are also encouraging development of technology that will allow satellite dishes to be fitted with devices that can block programming that is transmitted unscrambled from other countries but that the British Govt deems as not suitable for British audiences (an American company is working on this project!). Another interesting fact is that the Home Secretary (similar to the US Attorney General) has legal powers to censor any BBC program, apparently this power has never been used, but its there all the same!

I don't want to seem too negative, British TV and Radio still manages to put out some high quality programming of the kind no US network is willing to attempt. However the BBC is not as top notch as World Service listeners might think. The BBC TV News looks quite poor in comparison to the US Networks, the content is more varied and in more detail that in the USA but they rely to a surprisingly large degree on voice overs by their foreign correspondents while file footage or a location map is shown. Obviously the BBC is quite poor, and the 62 million pound increase in their news budget will make only a slight difference.

Radio in Britain is controlled in much the same way, despite many blank spots on the dial the govt is stalling on promises to open up the airwaves. Frequency allocation ensures BBC domination and they waste the spectrum by allowing almost all stations to simulcast on MW and FM (a recent survey revealed that 66% of Britons still listen to their favourite station on MW even though it is available on FM/VHF. Jan, don't know what that part of their radio is for!!)

It now seems that many of the pirate radio stations have been conned into behaving by false promises. Some time back, the govt announced an intention to initiate "community radio", this in response to the success of the community crierated pirates in not only large cities, but also remote rural locations like the Shetland Islands. Many of the free radio stations ceased illegal operations believing that they would be granted a license when the new laws are passed. Well it seems that now the Govt is having second thoughts on such plans, but just in case the plans do go thru the BBC and IBA are hurriedly applying for new low powered relays of existing stations in an attempt to fill up the dial! I was astonished to hear an announcement on Radio Apollo International from the folks at Now Radio ("the magazine for today's Radio industry") a group that claims to advocate for free radio. They urged free radio operators to "not act like pirates" and to program their stations like the legal ones. This was not a plea for professionalism but advise to have program content that is acceptable to the Govt (so they can get a community radio license if the laws are passed). This appears to this writer to be one more way of ensuring the same uninspiring programming that dominates legal radio in Britain.

Well that is enough rambling for now, I must prepare for my trip to the USSR and from there its on to Kenya. That should be interesting, not only DX from there but also sampling local radio. DXing in Europe has been surprisingly like DXing in the USA, no rare stations to report. So on to more adventure, I will keep you all informed (and hopefully not too bored!!).

RADIO APOLLO OFFERS TRANSMITTING EQUIPMENT

While listening to the Euro Pirate, Radio Apollo International on May 29th I heard the following announcement that may be of interest to ASCSE readers:

Would You like to update your transmitting equipment? Or would you like to start your own station but don't know where to get the best equipment from? Apollo Engineering Services can be of use to you if the answer to either of these questions is yes. We can supply transmitters for any frequency on shortwave, MW, or FM, with any power from 20 to 500 watts. Here are a few examples: Shortwave transmitters to cover two adjacent SW bands (e.g. 48 and 41 metres or 41 and 31 meters or 48 and 60 meters, the choice is yours). Frequency can be varied by the use of removable crystals. Also FM and MW Xetrs to operate on one frequency of your choice. How about prices? We offer Xetrs starting as low as 120 pounds (\$240) for a 20 watt transmitter. For higher powered transmitters it works out at approximately 3 pounds (\$6) per watt. Transmitters can be made to operate on mains or from a 12 volt car battery. All transmitters over 50 watts should be run from the mains if you plan to use it for any length of time. Inverters and power supplies to convert the power are also supplied, starting at around 15 pounds (\$30). We also offer a range of antennas to suit the frequency you require and also a wide selection of crystals. After sales and advice service too! If anything goes wrong with your equipment after you purchase it - no worries at all. Our engineer offers a very good after sales service and will also repair any major problems immediately. These transmitters are constructed by Radio Apollo's Chief Engineer, Chris Evans, who is a qualified engineer and has supplied many transmitters to stations large and small around Europe. For further information write to: Chris Evans, Chief Engineer, Radio Apollo, PO Box 5, Norfolk PE365AU, England. Please include details of what transmitter you require (power, bands, frequencies, mains or battery, etc). Please also include a phone number so we can get in touch with you to finalize details. Apollo Engineering Services, working towards better free radio in the 1980's.

I do not know much about the quality of their equipment, but their broadcast had a SID of 444 with good audio quality.

CLANDESTINE PROFILE

by
George Zeller

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LOOK HOW TIME FILES

As I am writing the column this month, it looks like it will be part of a deluxe combined May-June issue of the A+C+E. Next month will be my fifth anniversary in A+C+E, and it will also be the third anniversary of the Clandestine Profile column. It doesn't seem like that long, but I have enjoyed every monthly issue of the A+C+E since 1983. Both pirate and clandestine station activity seem to be picking up lately, which should be good omens for our club. As usual, your input to the column is very welcome. You can send your clandestine loggings, tips, information, speculation, analysis, and hunches to me in Cleveland. Clandestine DX-ing is always a lot more fun when we can share our information and discoveries with each other.

ANDREW O'BRIEN - A+C+E WORLD CORRESPONDENT

As I watched Reagan and Gorbachev on television this week, I realized that we had an A+C+E correspondent on the scene in Moscow. Andrew O'Brien recently checked in, and he pointed out that he would be in the USSR in time for the summit. He took his 2001 with him, and with glasses now in effect, he may be able to send us some good clandestine news right from the heart of the Soviet Union. Andrew sent us some good Europirate logs, which are printed in Kirk Baxter's column, and he promised to check in again from time to time. While our other clandestine editor zooms around the world, you can send your clandestine loggings to me in Cleveland.

LA VOZ DE ALPHA 66

Something is definitely up with this long-running anti-Castro clandestine. For five years, following their prior bust by the FCC in Florida, this station has been a regular on 6666 KHz in the evening. The emphasis has been on the "v" for variable. The station's VFO always drifted up rapidly during their half-hour broadcasts, moving about 3 or 4 KHz above 6666 by QRT. The drifting always lead to increased FM'ing of the carrier during the show.

Things recently have changed with this station. I heard them May 14 at 0145-0201 UTC with a solid signal on precisely 6666.60 KHz, with no frequency drift at all. It is obvious that they now have a new transmitter and/or a new solid state VFO. They also have extended their broadcast, at least at times, from 30 minutes to a full hour. One of our anonymous reporters heard them about a week before this, with the same results.

This anonymous contributor also points out that the station moved to 0100 precisely with the USA's shift to Daylight time. Does anybody know for sure if Cuba shifts to DST precisely on the same date as the USA? Our contributor does not think that they do. If not, then this would be another small piece of evidence that Alpha 66, new transmitter and all, is located in Florida once again. (They were busted by the FCC a little over five years ago from that state). Any information that you may have on this possibility will be welcome.

LA VOZ DEL CID

While we are on the subject of anti-Castro clandestines, I have noticed that La Voz del CID has moved their 31 meter frequency up a couple of KHz. For at least the last couple of years, they have been on 9939.9 KHz; or thereabouts. Their modulation on this transmitter has been somewhat distorted, leading to a widely reported third harmonic on about 29720 KHz. Sometime in early May they tweaked their transmitter. I heard them May 14 on 9941.5 // 11635 KHz around 2100, and the third harmonic was not audible. (They still move to 6305v // 7380 KHz in the evening). Sometimes they are a little higher than 9941.5, but they are always above 9940 KHz now. It looks like the chief engineers have been at work for the anti-Cuban stations.

RADIO LIBERTAD CUBANA Y RADIO FILIPE DE LA CRUZ

There is news from a third anti-Castro station this month. In the May 7 Numero Uno newsletter, Terry Krueger of Florida reports that Commandante David's famous anti-Castro clandestine station has returned, using these IDs. Alpha 66 was on simultaneously with Terry's logging here, so it is definitely using a transmitter different from the newly tweaked Alpha 66 rig. They announce a Tuesday-Thursday-Saturday 0100-0130 schedule on 7045 KHz. Terry says that their signal is strong in Florida, but I have not heard it in Ohio yet. The station seems to have been silent from 1984 until now. Here is another good one for you to check out.

LA VOIX DU SAHARA LIBRE

Bob Ross of Ontario checks in again this month with an excellent clandestine QSL report. Bob got a full data prepared card and folder from La Voix du Sahara Libre in only three weeks for \$1 US in the return postage department. The transmission verified was on 15125 KHz VIA the Algeria transmitters. He also got a ham QSL card from the same contact, Marabia A. Haiba, Front Polisario, Boite Postale 10, El Mouradia, Algeria. Marabia's ham call is 5R4SD, or at least I think so from Bob's reported information. Very good work, Bob! This is a nice one, and it would be worth a try by the rest of us. Bob picked up the station on a Sony 2010, so reception should be possible in North America with not too much difficulty.

RADIO LIBERACION / RADIO QUINCE DE SEPTIEMBRE

Despite the demise of the Contras lately, this station continues to be heard through early June by me every night on 6214.4 // 5929.4 KHz around 0100 UTC. The station ID's at QRT with both of these station names. However, an anonymous contributor reports that they were on their OLD frequency of 5889.1 KHz at *0200 sign-on May 14, announcing only a Radio Liberacion ID. During this transmission, they announced a schedule of 1100, 1300, 2000, and 0200 UTC on 5890 KHz. This could be a different operation from the regular parallel Liberacion/Quince channels, a pirate relay, or something else altogether. Has anybody else been hearing this second Radio Liberacion? Is Falwell up to something again?

RADIO VENCEREMOS

This anti-El Salvador clandestine is still on daily in the mornings and evenings on 6550v // 3470v KHz, jumping frequencies in mid-broadcast to avoid both its jammers and the black quasi-Venceremos that is sometimes nearby. With President Duarte currently hospitalized in the USA with cancer, and with political pressures heating up on both the right and left in El Salvador, this station bears watching. Have you heard this one lately? Reception is always possible on this one throughout North America.

THANKS

Many thanks to Andrew O'Brien of the USSR, Bob Ross of Ontario, Kirk Baxter of Kansas, Terry Krueger of Florida (VIA NU), and our anonymous contributors who have requested confidentiality. We broke another record this month with reports from three different countries! I hope to hear from YOU next month- send your clandestine information to Cleveland!

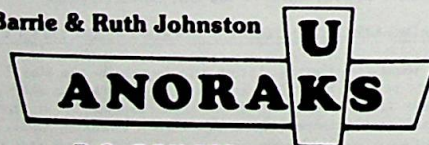
IRAN FLAG OF FREEDOM RADIO

Another anonymous contributor tells us that this station can be heard in the evenings on 9045 // 15555 KHz around 0330 UTC. Many DX-ers have written me over the years, expressing the wish that more of the clandestine stations would broadcast in English, so that we could understand their programming clearly. This anti-Iranian station does have a daily English ID sometime around 0330. Why not give this one a shot? Reception seems variable, but it is being reported recently in North America.

VOICE OF TOMORROW

Veteran pirate chasers will remember this pro-fascist North American station. They are back (see Kirk Baxter's column), announcing a new address of Box 314, Clackamas, Oregon 97015. We have always called this one a pirate because of its irregular operating habits, but its extremely harsh pro-Aryan and anti-everybody else Nazi programming is about as clandestine as you can get. I heard them two Saturdays in a row (May 22 and 29) on 7409.9 KHz around 2330 UTC. If they keep up these regular broadcasts, we may have to promote them to clandestine status. They are also in English, which makes two English language clandestines in a row in this column. They also solicited taped programming (as usual) from their listeners for prospective broadcast in the future. Have you ever found it curious that this vitriolic far-right station has escaped FCC busts? I certainly have.

Barrie & Ruth Johnston



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BLACKPOOL FY1 4RE
England

DAYTON HAMVENTION REPORT

by Robert Horvitz

Beautiful weather, interesting forums, and acres of electronic bargains brought over 32,000 people to Dayton's Hara Arena for the world's largest "hamvention," April 29 - May 1. This was my first time there, so I can't compare it to previous years. But everyone I spoke to said 1988's was one of the best, if not THE best, Hamvention ever.

Despite a 30% increase in attendance over last year, it wasn't uncomfortably crowded. The dry sunny weather lured most people out to the parking lot to look at row after row of tables piled high with electronic gear of every age, application and condition. Inside, the arena was stuffed with slick displays of new goodies from companies like Icom, Kenwood and Yaesu; all sorts of accessories, antennas, radio books, free literature and club booths; vendors putting call signs on T-shirts, sunglasses and baseball caps; concessioners selling hotdogs and burgers and cokes as fast as they could prepare them...

And the hats! There were literally thousands of rubber-duckies clipped to bright-colored headgear (no doubt frying some of the nearby neurons), plus maybe a dozen people wearing construction helmets with mini-yagis mounted on top. The best hat I saw had a copper-tubing horizontal loop antenna mounted over the helmet like a halo. And in the parking lot, the cars had all sprouted some extra metal whiskers. Radio may be invisible, but as if to compensate, at Dayton alot of the amateur gear hit a high level of visual fantasy.

There were HF antennas whose elements were so big you had to marvel that someone went to the trouble of setting them up at all. One booth featured a hydraulic antenna mast. I heard that last year, during a momentary lapse, it extended high enough to puncture one of the roof-panels. This year it stayed under control.

Tektronix had a booth with two digital-storage spectrum analyzers (2750 series) sporting fax images on their displays. One of the sales managers had told me last February he thought they could capture and demodulate facsimile signals with (appropriately modified) spec ans, and by golly, they did it.

The Association of North American Radio Clubs (ANARC) had a stand at Dayton for the first time this year. We were lucky in getting a very prominent location, and our sign could be seen from quite some distance. The booth was manned in shifts by members of the All-Ohio Scanner Club (AOSC), the Association of Clandestine radio Enthusiasts (ACE), and a large contingent from the North American Short Wave Association (NASWA). Among the latter was Bob Brown, KW3F, moderator of the ANARC Ham Net, which meets on 7240 KHz LSB Sunday mornings at 10 a.m. EST.

Our SWL/Monitors' Forum on Sunday morning was by all accounts a great success. About 120 people came to hear Bob Grove, Jonathan Marks, Kim Andrew Elliott, Bob Brown, Norm Schrein and myself talk for an all-too-short 2 hours. Jonathan will have a

sound-portrait of Dayton on his "Media Network" show this Thursday on Radio Netherlands.

Bob Grove's booth at the Hamvention emphasized his forthcoming "surveillance receiver," the SR1000, which he claims will have continuous coverage from 100 kHz to 1000 MHz, keypad and rotary-knob tuning, 100 memory channels, and a 3-inch CRT spectrum display - all for under \$2000. It's supposed to be built in the USA, and Bob says he expects delivery of the first models in the final quarter of 1988.

Not being a ham, I'm not too familiar with the market for that sort of equipment. But I did ask several amateurs what they found new and exciting at Dayton. One told me about AFtronics' switched-capacitor audio filter kit, selling there for about \$130 (\$40 more for the assembled version). Another mentioned a relatively inexpensive new HF transceiver from Heathkit (actually manufactured by Yaesu). It was on display at the Hamvention, but it won't be available until the fall. Expected cost: around \$700. Someone else was impressed by Icom's IC-32T two-band (144/440MHz) hand-held. But they also noted that no one's yet come out with a three-band HT, though it's technically possible and probably would sell well. A couple of people commented on the growing amount of 10-meter gear, due to the new novice enhancement rules, as well as the improving propagation in that band.

I managed to get away from Dayton without buying ANYTHING but meals and a felt-tip marker - mainly because I didn't know how I'd be getting home 'til Sunday afternoon, and I had to be prepared to hitch-hike or take a bus. Fortunately, two hams from Reston, Virginia, gave me a ride. Next year I plan to bring a pick-up truck and REALLY stock up!

Of the free hand-outs at the Hamvention, one of the most ubiquitous was also one of the most intriguing: the Dallas Remote Imaging Group distributed thousands of flyers about their computer bulletin-board, which apparently focuses on digital image processing, satellite tracking, telemetry, graphic transmissions, the Soviet space program, ham radio, etc. To see what's going on, call their Datalink RBBS at 214-394-7438.

Joe Schroeder solicited contributions at Dayton for a Westlink Legal Defense Fund, to help Bill Pasternak fend off a suit apparently triggered by his reporting on a conflict between two hams in the midwest. Though the suit seems likely to be dropped or dismissed eventually, the lawyers' fees right now are real and burdensome. Donations can be sent to: WLDF, P.O. Box 406, Glenview, IL 60025.

An unrelated minor legal problem arose at the Hamvention itself: someone overheard two staffers saying that a Dayton city official had noticed Radio Shack had a booth in the outdoor flea-market where they were selling discontinued RS equipment. Since the flea-market is only for those whose primary line of work isn't selling radio equipment, and RS apparently didn't have a business license for their stall, the city official was said to have raised the specter of the Hamvention being denied use of the arena next year. However, given the huge amount of money and favorable attention this annual event brings the city, it's hard

to imagine such a minor incident even being remembered a few weeks from now.

ANARC intends to be back at the Hamvention next year, and I'll bet the budget for our booth it'll be held at Dara again, and be more popular, more fun, and even more worth attending than this year's great gathering. See you there!

Radio World

"Marti" Upgrade Aims at Cuba

by David Hughes

Washington DC ... While the Voice of America is improving its Radio Marti AM antenna site to provide a stronger signal to Cuba, there are plans this spring for more talks between Cuba and the US to reduce Cuban AM band interference.

A new four-tower array is under construction at Radio Marti's antenna and transmitter site in the Florida Keys, according to VOA spokesperson Kathy Litwak.

Unlike the VOA's general Spanish language service, which is beamed throughout Latin America, Radio Marti

is geared to providing music and news specifically for Cuba.

The VOA, Litwak indicated, had had a three-tower array at the Marathon, Florida site since 1962, when it began its AM band relay of general service programs to Cuba and the Central America region. The VOA began the Radio Marti service in May 1985.

Improved reception

The \$1.3 million antenna project, which will improve reception of the 50 kW Radio Marti signal on 1180 kHz, is scheduled to be completed in September, Litwak stated.

"The salt water in the atmosphere has

caused a lot of wear to the equipment (at the site)," she said. "Additionally, the original design was not an optimal directional pattern."

The Radio Marti signal is directed southward, away from the US mainland.

"The new four-tower array will provide a better quality signal. It will increase the signal over Cuba, especially in Havana," she said.

Plans also call for installation of a new ground system as well as new RF phasing equipment.

However, Litwak stressed that while the Radio Marti improvements would most likely improve the signal into other areas of Central America, such as cur-

April 15, 1988

rent hot spots Nicaragua and Panama, the primary reason for the upgrade was improved service to Cuba.

She added that there are also no plans to shift the Cuban emphasis of the Radio Marti programming to a broader focus.

Radio Marti broadcasts to Cuba will continue while the work at the transmitter site is being performed, Litwak added.

Broadcasters, particularly those in South Florida, have been reporting ongoing interference from Cuban AM stations. However, there have not been any recent reports of increased interference with the news of improvements to the Radio Marti antenna site.

No objections, yet

Bill Haratunian, a consultant the NAB hired to study the Cuban interference situation, said the broadcasters association has "no objection" to the VOA improving the Radio Marti antenna system.

However, he said if the VOA planned to increase the power of the facility above the currently reported 50 kW level, the NAB would be concerned that Cuba might retaliate with more AM band interference.

Haratunian indicated that he had not heard of any VOA plans to increase the power of the Radio Marti AM transmitter. Radio Marti is also relayed on several shortwave frequencies from other VOA transmitter sites.

If the VOA wanted to increase Marti's AM signal to 100 kW, which has been rumored, it would have to get approval from the FCC and Congress, Haratunian said. It would also have to file with the International Telecommunications Union (ITU) in Europe.

Ever since Radio Marti started, several monitors have said they thought the Marathon transmitter site had operated at times with a power greater than 50 kW, however the VOA has not confirmed this.

Haratunian also reported that a resumption of bilateral talks between the US and Cuba will take place this spring, although at press time no dates had been set.

Talks between the two nations were held in November 1987 to "de-link" broadcasting issues from other topics such as immigration issues.

The announcement of an agreement to send some Cuban refugees, including some criminals originally from Cuban prisons, back to the island nation sparked a wave of riots at the Louisiana and Georgia facilities where they were being held.

One issue that could be raised in future talks is a study Congress has authorized on the feasibility of creating a "TV Marti" service similar in scope and purpose to Radio Marti. It could be relayed either by terrestrial transmitter or via satellite.

In December 1987, Congress approved \$100,000 for a TV Marti study. The government has earmarked \$12.75 million for broadcast operations to Cuba this year. The TV Marti study is scheduled to get underway this spring, and be completed the year's end.

The NAB said it is fearful that Cuba could increase AM band interference in response to plans for TV Marti, which is being sponsored by several Florida legislators.

For more information on Radio Marti, contact the VOA's public information office at 202-485-6231. NAB consultant Bill Haratunian can be reached at 301-231-0568.

East Coast SWL Conference Ham/Computer Fest!

September 17-18, 1988

Virginia Beach, Virginia

Come and enjoy a weekend in beautiful Virginia Beach, Virginia, with many of your favorite SWL friends! Forums, conferences and dealers galore! Participating clubs include NASWA, ODDX & Great Circle SW Society.

- ⇒ Jonathan Marks from Radio Nederland!
- ⇒ Robert Horvitz, ANARC Exec. Secretary
- ⇒ Dr. DX Speaks Out!!
- ⇒ Chuck Rippel, DX'ers Forum Editor

Other highlights include displays from the major manufacturers: Icom, Kenwood and Yaesu; forums with the FCC, the ARRL, and various computer organizations! PLUS a flea market, and dealers of ALL kinds!

SWL forums will also include general roundtable discussions on receivers, QSL'ing and antennas! Additionally, the BLUE ANGELS will be performing at the nearby OCEANA MASTER JET BASE; it will still be warm, and the shores of the Atlantic Ocean are only a few short blocks away! A fun filled weekend is assured!

For more information, send a SASE to:



The Old Dominion DX Association

P.O. Box 9645
Norfolk, VA 23505-0645
or call (804) 497-5151

ACE LOGGING FORM

Name _____ Receiver _____
City _____ State _____

Remember: All dates and times in GMT please. *0000 means the xmission began at 0000, 0000* means xmission ended at 0000. Please cut the logging strips, and additional details may be put on back.

Station _____ Frequency _____

Mode (circle one) AM USB LSB FM Other Date _____

Time (gmt) _____ SIO _____

Comments: _____

.....
Name _____ Receiver _____
City _____ State _____

Remember: All dates and times in GMT please. *0000 means the xmission began at 0000, 0000* means xmission ended at 0000. Please cut the logging strips, and additional details may be put on back.

Station _____ Frequency _____

Mode (circle one) AM USB LSB FM Other Date _____

Time (gmt) _____ SIO _____

Comments: _____

.....
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Station _____ Frequency _____

Mode (circle one) AM USB LSB FM Other Date _____

Time (gmt) _____ SIO _____

Comments: _____

Assoc. of Clandestine Radio Enthusiasts

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The Association of Clandestine radio Enthusiasts (A-C-E) is a club dedicated to the monitoring of unlicensed, unusual, unexplained, and unofficial radio broadcasts. If your interests include listening to pirate radio stations, clandestine broadcasts, covert communications, or Euro-pirates, The A-C-E publishes information each month which is of interest to you.

Pirate: A-C-E is famous for its thorough coverage of a subject that has been controversial in showbiz circles for years. Some clubs refuse to print pirate loggings because column editors don't like pirates. We want you to have information which helps you hear the interesting, often outspoken, and satirical programming these stations offer. Our pirate feature editor provides in-depth interviews with operators of North American pirate stations.

Varied Response provides you with QSL information (and addresses) as well as offering some very honest and often controversial commentary, often involving spirited responses from members.

Euro-Pirates: The European continent is a hotbed of pirate broadcasters. Although some are hobby operations, a great many stations are very professional, often commercial, operations. Our correspondent in England compiles Free Radio information on broadcasts throughout Europe.

Clandestine: Defined as unlicensed transmissions containing messages aimed at achieving social change. Each month, our clandestine columnist provides some insight into the political



views behind these broadcasts as well as telling you when and where they can be heard throughout the world!

Technical: Find out how to make the most of your equipment and its capabilities. From upgrading to equipment modifications and all points between - you will find the most thorough coverage in the hobby here in The A-C-E.

Spy Numbers: Although most of the mystery surrounding these transmissions has been uncovered, there is considerable interest in this field. Read the latest news here regarding these stations.

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Sample Issue	\$ 1.50

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